

FILED

JUN 13 2012

JAMES R. PARKS
CLERK, STATE GRAND JURY

STATE GRAND JURY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Report of the Twenty-Third State Grand Jury into the
Investigation of Anderson County Government
Surrounding the Buy-out of the Former County
Administrator**

INTRODUCTION

The State Grand Jury investigates public corruption pursuant to South Carolina Code Ann. Section 14-7-1630. We believe strongly that the public interest will be served in this case by the issuance of this report summarizing certain aspects of the Grand Jury investigation into this case.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

The South Carolina State Grand Jury began an investigation into the buy-out/severance agreement of the Former County Administrator and other related relevant matters concerning other members and/or employees of Anderson County. On February 25, 2010, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division ("SLED") submitted to the State Grand Jury Division, Office of the Attorney General, a case initiation memorandum proposing that an ongoing investigation concerning possible political corruption be adopted as a State Grand Jury matter. Statutorily required approvals of the Chief of SLED and the Attorney General were forthcoming, and on March 1, 2010, the Attorney General filed a Petition with the Presiding Judge of the State Grand Jury, the Honorable G. Thomas Cooper, Jr., requesting authority to open the matter as a State Grand Jury Investigation. Judge Cooper authorized the investigation by Order dated March 4, 2010. The investigation was carried over from the Twenty-First South Carolina State Grand Jury to the Twenty-Second South Carolina State Grand Jury by order from the Honorable G. Thomas Cooper, Jr., dated June 17, 2010. The investigation was carried over from the Twenty-Second South Carolina State Grand Jury to the Twenty-Third South Carolina State Grand Jury by order from the Honorable Clifton Newman, dated June 9, 2011.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Work on this investigation continued. There have been Eighteen (18) witnesses who have testified before this body. In addition, during the investigation SLED Agents and Investigators from the Anderson County Sheriff's Office have interviewed a great number of other persons, and statements of these additional witnesses have been summarized and made available to the State Grand Jury.

In addition, this Grand Jury has issued document subpoenas producing over 10,000 pages which have been available for our consideration during the course of this investigation. We have explored every lead and followed all investigative avenues. The Grand Jury has thoroughly investigated all of the activities and events associated with the buy-out/severance agreement of the Former County Administrator and other related relevant matters concerning other members and/or employees of Anderson County.

This Grand Jury has not found probable cause to believe that crimes were committed. We understand that this Report is within our public duty in matters of public concern. At this point, we do not believe that there are additional witnesses or documents which should be or need to be subpoenaed in this investigation.

We, the members of the Twenty-Third State Grand Jury, do issue this Report this 12th day of June 2012.



FOREPERSON
STATE GRAND JURY